

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned Application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A combination support surface and receptacle for catering or special events presentation, the support surface comprising a relatively flat, portable and contiguous table top having a plurality of legs mounted thereto for supporting the table top, the legs having sufficient length and being arranged suitably for suspending the top in a generally horizontal position over at least one refuse container such that the container comprises a base of the table, the legs being releasably joined to the table top for ready, quick mounting or collapse of the same.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein the table top is relatively circular in shape and has a diameter substantially greater than the width of the container, such that edges of the table top extend a selected distance beyond a rim of the container so as to obfuscate a refuse receiving opening in the container from view.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein the table top is generally rectangular in shape and has a width substantially greater than that of the container, such that edges of the table top extend a selected distance beyond a rim of the container so as to obfuscate a refuse receiving opening in the container from view.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein the refuse container is constructed of a polymeric material.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein the refuse container is a conventional plastic trash can.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein the refuse container is relatively circular in shape.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein the refuse container is generally rectangular in shape.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of the legs is releasably joined to the table top by a cotter pin.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of the legs is releasably joined at one end to the table top by a mounting bracket, the other end of the leg being recessed for sliding engagement with and securement to a rim of the refuse container.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein each leg is releasably joined at one end to the table top by a mounting bracket, the other end of each leg being recessed for sliding engagement with and securement to a rim portion of the refuse container.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein at least two of the legs are releasably joined at one end to the table top by a mounting bracket, the other end of the legs being recessed for sliding engagement with and securement to a rim portion of the refuse container.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of the legs are releasably joined at one end to the table top by a mounting bracket, the other end of the legs being partially recessed for engagement with and securement to a handle portion of the refuse container.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The support surface and receptacle set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the legs are releasably joined at one end to the table top by a mounting bracket, one end of at least one of the legs being partially recessed for engagement with and securement to a handle portion of the refuse container, and one end of at least one of the other legs being recessed for sliding engagement with and securement to a rim portion of the refuse container.

Claim 14 (currently amended) A combination support surface and receptacle for catering or special events presentation, the support surface comprising a relatively flat, portable and contiguous table top having a plurality of legs mounted thereto for supporting the table top, the legs having sufficient length and being arranged suitably for suspending the top in a generally horizontal position over at least one refuse container such that the container comprises a base of the table, the legs being releasably joined to the table top for ready, quick mounting or collapse of the same, wherein each of the legs are releasably joined at one end to the table top by a mounting bracket, one end of at least one of the legs being partially recessed for engagement with and securement to a handle portion of the refuse container, and one end of at least one of the other legs being recessed for sliding engagement with and securement to a rim portion of the refuse container.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A method for assembly or disassembly of a combination support surface and receptacle for catering or special events presentation, comprising the steps of:

(i) [releasably] mounting a plurality of legs to a support surface for quick release so as to suspend the surface in a generally horizontal position, the support surface comprising a relatively flat, portable and contiguous table top and the legs having sufficient length and being arranged suitably for suspending the top in a generally horizontal position;

(ii) positioning the quick releas[ably] mounting legs of the support over at least one refuse container; and

(iii) [releasably] mounting the legs to the container for quick release such that the container comprises a base of the table.

Claim 16 (previously amended) The method set forth in claim 15, wherein each of the legs are releasably joined at one end to the table top by a mounting bracket, one end of at least one of the legs being partially recessed for engagement with and securement to a handle portion of the refuse container, and one end of at least one of the other legs being recessed for sliding engagement with and securement to a rim portion of the refuse container.

Claim 17 (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 15, further comprising the steps of (iv) detaching the legs from the table base or container, (v) removing the legs of the support and moving them away from the container, and (vi) detaching the plurality of legs from the support surface for collapse of the combination support and receptacle.